

## CLAIMS

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A footwear construction comprising:

5 an upper including a forefoot portion and a heel portion, said upper including a peripheral allowance;

an insole including a downwardly extending insole rib, said insole shaped to correspond to said forefoot portion, said insole rib terminating short of said heel portion;

10 a welt secured to said peripheral allowance and said insole rib in said forefoot portion, said welt terminating short of said heel portion;

a midsole secured to said welt in said forefoot portion, said midsole terminating short of said heel portion;

a heel cradle secured to said peripheral allowance in said heel portion; and

15 an outsole secured to said midsole in said forefoot portion, said outsole secured to at least one of said heel cradle and said peripheral allowance in substantially only said heel portion.

2. The footwear construction of claim 1 wherein said insole includes a peripheral edge, and wherein the insole rib is inset from said peripheral edge a first distance and a second distance, said second distance greater than said first distance.

20 3. The footwear construction of claim 2 wherein said insole rib is inset said second distance along a portion of the rib that is closest to the heel portion.

4. The footwear construction of claim 1 wherein said outsole defines an upwardly extending flange and wherein said welt includes an end, said end terminating behind said flange so that said end is unviewable.

5. The footwear construction of claim 1 wherein said upper includes an arch region, and wherein said welt is stitched to said peripheral allowance substantially only in at least one of said forefoot region and said arch region.

6. The footwear construction of claim 1 wherein said upper includes an arch region, and wherein said outsole includes an upwardly extending wall that traverses at least a portion of a width of said outsole in at least one of said forefoot region and said arch region.

7. The footwear construction of claim 6 wherein said midsole terminates adjacent said upwardly extending wall.

8. A footwear construction comprising:  
an upper including a peripheral allowance;  
an outsole including a forefoot portion, an arch portion and a heel portion;  
a midsole joined with said outsole in substantially only at least one of said forefoot portion and said arch portion;  
a welt stitched to said midsole and said peripheral allowance in substantially only at least one of said forefoot portion and said arch portion, said welt terminating short of said heel portion, whereby said outsole is joined with said upper in said forefoot region, but not in said heel portion, by said welt.

9. The footwear construction of claim 8 comprising a heel cradle joined with said outsole in substantially only at least one of said heel portion and said arch portion.

10. The footwear construction of claim 9 wherein said heel cradle is secured to said peripheral allowance in substantially only at least one of said heel portion and said arch portion.

11. The footwear construction of claim 9 comprising an insole, said insole including an outer periphery and a downwardly extending flange, said flange inset a distance from said outer periphery, said distance varying along at least a portion of the outer periphery.

12. The footwear construction of claim 11 wherein said outsole includes a flange and wherein said welt terminates behind said flange and out of view.

13. A method for manufacturing footwear including an insole portion, an arch portion and a heel portion, comprising:

joining an upper with an insole substantially only in at least one of the forefoot region and the arch region;

stitching a welt to the upper in substantially only in at least one of the forefoot region and the arch region, said welt terminating short of said heel portion;

stitching a midsole to the welt;

joining an outsole with the midsole; and

joining the outsole with the upper in the heel portion.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the upper is joined with the welt and subsequently the midsole and outsole by the welt in substantially only the forefoot portion.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the upper includes a peripheral allowance, the peripheral allowance secured to the outsole.

16. The method of claim 13 comprising disposing a heel cradle between the outsole and the upper in the heel portion, and securing the outsole to the heel cradle and the upper to the heel cradle in the heel portion.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the heel cradle terminates short of said forefoot portion.

18. The method of claim 13 wherein the outsole includes an upwardly extending flange and the welt includes an end.

5 19. The method of claim 18 comprising positioning the end of the welt behind the flange so that it is unviewable in finished footwear.

20. The method of claim 13 wherein the insole includes a flange and an edge, said flange tapering away from said edge in at least one of the forefoot region and the arch region.